[*English*]

U.S.S.R. Collaboration

3873. DR. R. SHIDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the erstiwhile USSR financial collaboration in various State Governments and Union Government owned public undertakings;

(b) the extent of such financial associations in these projects;

(c) whether the impact of these participation is examined in the light of political development in USSR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). From 2-2-1955 to 31-12-1991, the USSR Government signed 18 agreements with the Government of India for providing credits aggregating to roubles 9995.36 million. No such agreement was signed directly with State Governments. These credits were used for public sector projects in the steel, power, coal and oil sectors. The total disbursement from 2-2-1955 to 31-12-1991 was roubles 2136.11 million. Until April 1977, the credits were repayable in 12 years with interest payments at 2.5 per cent per annum. For agreements signed after April 1977, the credits were repayable in 20 years inclusive of a grace period of three years with an interest of 2.5 per cent per annum.

The USSR credits were denominated in roubels but repayment of principal and interest were made in non-convertible Indian rupees which were utilised by the Soviet authorities for purchase of Indian goods for export to the USSR within the framework of the Indo–Soviet trade plan in force.

(c) and (d). With the dissolution of the USSR it is not yet clear whether unutilised credit will still be available.

Import of Tube Lights

3874. DR. R. SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tube lights and its accesseries are imported; and

(b) if so, the details of the brands and the countries from which these are imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). In terms of Import & Export Policy for 1990–93, as amended, the item ' tube lights and its accessories' is covered by the Negative List and no licences has been issued for its imports.

Raids conducted by Income Tax Department in Gujarat

3875. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI:
SHRI SUK DEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Income Tax Department in Gujarat during 1991 and 1991 (upto February 29);

(b) whether some cases of income tax evasion by Managing Directors of newspapers were detected during these raids;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) The action taken so far against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE